

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent, said apparatus comprising:

a) an outer sheath, comprising an elongated tubular member having distal and proximal ends;

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b) an inner shaft located coaxially and slidably within said outer sheath, said inner shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, said inner shaft having a stop releasably affixed on an exterior surface thereof adjacent to its proximal end, said stop being configured to allow said outer sheath to move a predetermined distance, thereby enabling partial deployment of a self-expanding stent, said inner shaft further including at least two grooves disposed thereon.

2. (Twice Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 said stop is semi-cylindrical and snap fits over said inner shaft.

3. (Twice Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said stop has an outside diameter larger than an inside diameter of said outer sheath.

4. (Twice Amended) A delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent, said apparatus comprising:

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a) an outer sheath, comprising an elongated tubular member having distal and proximal ends;

b) an inner shaft located coaxially within said outer sheath, said inner shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, said inner shaft having a stop releasably affixed on an exterior surface thereof adjacent to its proximal end, said stop being configured to allow said outer sheath to move a predetermined distance, thereby enabling partial deployment of a self-expanding stent, said distal end of said inner shaft further including at least two grooves disposed thereon; and

c) a substantially cylindrical self-expanding stent located within said outer sheath, said self-expanding stent having a proximal end, a distal end, a longitudinal axis extending therebetween and an interior, said self-expanding stent further including at least two spaced apart longitudinal legs having distal and proximal ends, said distal ends of said legs attached to said proximal end of said self-expanding stent, said legs extending proximally away from said self-expanding stent, each said leg including a flange adjacent its proximal end, said flanges are set within said grooves of said inner shaft, thereby releasably attaching said self-expanding stent to said inner shaft.

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away from said self-expanding stent, each said leg including a flange adjacent its proximal end, said flanges are set within said grooves of said inner shaft, thereby releasably attaching said self-expanding stent to said inner shaft.

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12. (Twice Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said [removable member]stop is semi-cylindrical and snap fits over said inner shaft.

13. (Twice Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said [removable member]stop has an outside diameter larger than an inside diameter of said outer sheath.

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed November 4, 2002, Applicants propose to amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the proposed amendments and the following remarks. In this amendment, claims 1-4 and 12-13 are proposed to be amended, no claims are proposed to be added, and no claims are proposed to be cancelled, so that claims 1-13 remain pending. No new matter has been introduced.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.